

CPYRGHT

Russian Film Audience Likes Stalin Role

By DEAN HILLS

Moscow Bureau of The Sun

Moscow—Russians applauded enthusiastically yesterday when a scene featuring Josef V. Stalin appeared in a new Soviet film about World War II.

The premiere, Parts 4 and 5 of the five-part Soviet film version of the war, was shown at the opening ceremonies of the seventh Moscow Film Festival. The audience in the Kremlin Hall of Congresses was largely Russian.

An Old Friend

The Soviet dictator also ap-

peared in earlier segments of the series, called collectively "Liberation." But audiences met the earlier portrayals of the dictator with respectful, hushed silences. Yesterday the viewers seemed warmly relaxed, as if welcoming back an old friend.

Any picture or mention of Stalin was forbidden during the de-Stalinization era of Nikita S. Khrushchev, the former premier, who is himself now a Soviet unmentionable. The current regime's position on Stalin is that he made mistakes but that, as a builder of the Communist party and the wartime leader, he is an important historical figure.

The Stalin in the new segments is noticeably wiser, kinder, and more decisive than the one who appeared in the earlier parts of "Liberation." President Roosevelt—who earlier had come off as a good-natured, if somewhat naive tool of Winston Churchill—seems to be trickier in Parts 4 and 5.

Stalin Produces Photo

In the scene which depicts the 1945 Yalta conference involving Stalin, Churchill and Roosevelt, Stalin produces a photograph which catches Roosevelt in a lie. The picture also shows an American agent, Allen Dulles, in Switzerland with a German.

The Russians accuse the British and Americans of trying to make a deal with the Germans whereby the Russians would be kept off German territory. Roosevelt laughs uncomfortably over the matter of the photograph and insists, weakly, that no trickery is involved.

Stalin tears up the photograph, as a gesture of his willingness to forgive. He is later double-crossed by the British and Americans, who rush troops to Berlin in an unsuccessful at-

tempt to beat the Russians to the city.

The Western version of events is quite different: the Americans, as a gesture of goodwill, held off occupying Berlin so that the Russians could have this sweetest of victories.

Boyish And Bashful

Once in Berlin, the Russians are shown as boyish, bashful and countryboy charming. They share food with the Germans, talk shyly to pretty German girls and rescue wounded men, women and children from a subway tunnel which Hitler orders flooded to slow down the Russians.

The film festival opened yesterday evening with the introduction of members of the juries in the various competitions—feature film, documentary, and children's films. The juries are heavily weighted with members from Communist countries.

A half-hour documentary entitled "The Internationale" was also shown. The short film showed neither Stalin nor Mr. Khrushchev, although it featured other historical figures in the world Communist movement.

"The Internationale" also took a big swipe at the United States with a long section showing American soldiers beating and killing Vietnamese. The United States State Department has refused to participate this year because of anger over films it considered anti-American in the 1967 and 1969 festivals.